--43. (Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein a motion vector value corresponding to the image data subjected to scan conversion is synthesized from motion vector data contained in the input MPEG2-image compressed data.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 remain in the application with claims 1-3, 5-19, 21, 23-25, 27, 28, 30, and 33-43 having been amended hereby.

As will be noted from the Declaration, Applicants are citizens and residents of Japan and this application originated there.

Accordingly, the amendments made to the specification are provided to place the application in idiomatic English, and the claims are amended to place them in better condition for examination.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

Jay H. Maioli
Reg. No. 27, 213

JHM:co

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-3, 5-19, 21, 23-25, 27, 28, 30, and 33-43 by rewriting same to read as follows.

--1. (Amended) An image data converting apparatus for converting first compressed image data to second compressed image data <u>being</u> more compressed than the first compressed image data, said first compressed image data being interlaced-scan data [that has been] compressed by orthogonal transform and motion compensation, and said second compressed data being serial-scan data, said apparatus comprising:

image data decoding means for decoding the first compressed image data by using only lower mth-order orthogonal transform coefficients included in nth-order orthogonal transform coefficients (where $m < n$), in both a vertical direction and a horizontal direction in the first compressed image data;

scan-converting means for converting interlaced-scan data output from the image data decoding means to serial-scan data; and

image data encoding means for encoding the serial-scan data, thereby generating the second compressed image data.

--2. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first compressed image data is MPEG2-image compressed data containing eighth-order discrete cosine transform coefficients

in both the vertical direction and the horizontal direction, the image data decoding means is MPEG2-image data decoding means for decoding the MPEG2-image compressed data in both the vertical direction and the horizontal direction, by using only lower fourth-order coefficients included in the eighth-order discrete cosine transform coefficients, and the image data encoding means is MPEG4-image encoding means for encoding the serial-scan data from the scan converting means, thereby generating MPEG4-image compressed data.

--3. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, [which] further [comprises] comprising picture-type determining means for determining [the] a code type of each frame in the interlaced-scan MPEG2-image compressed data, for outputting data about an intra-image encoded image/forward prediction encoded image, and for discarding data about a bi-directional prediction encoded image, thereby to convert a frame rate, [and in which] wherein an output of the picture-type determining means is input to the MPEG2-image data decoding means.

--5. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the MPEG2-image data decoding means comprises variable-length decoding means, and the variable-length decoding means performs variable-length encoding on only [the] discrete cosine transform coefficients required in a discrete cosine transform, in accordance with whether [the] a macro block of the input MPEG2-image compressed data is of a field-discrete cosine

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transform mode or a fame-discrete cosine transform mode.

--6. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the MPEG2-image data decoding means comprises compression inverse discrete-cosine transform means of a field-discrete cosine transform mode, the compression inverse discrete-cosine transform means extracts only the lower fourth-order coefficients included in the eighth-order discrete cosine transform coefficients, in both the vertical direction and the horizontal direction, and then performs a fourth-order inverse discrete cosine transform on the lower fourth-order coefficients extracted.

--7. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the inverse [cosine] discrete-cosine transform is carried out in both the horizontal direction and the vertical direction[,] by a method based on a predetermined fast algorithm.

--8. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the MPEG2-image data decoding means comprises compression inverse discrete-cosine transform means of a frame-discrete cosine transform mode, wherein the compression inverse discrete-cosine transform means extracts only the lower fourth-order coefficients included in the eighth-order discrete cosine transform coefficients[,] in the horizontal direction, [and then] performs fourth-order inverse discrete cosine transform on the lower fourth-order coefficients extracted, and performs a field-discrete cosine transform [is performed] in the vertical

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direction.

--9. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the inverse [cosine] <u>discrete-cosine</u> transform is carried out in both the horizontal direction and the vertical direction[,] by a method based on a predetermined fast algorithm.

--10. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the compression inverse discrete-cosine transform means of frame-discrete cosine transform mode performs the inverse discrete cosine transform by using only $(4 \times 4 + 4 \times 2)$th-order coefficients included in (4×8)th-order discrete cosine transform coefficients input to achieve the field-discrete compression inverse discrete cosine transform, while replacing [the] remaining coefficients by 0s, thus discarding the remaining coefficients.

--11. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the MPEG2-image data decoding means comprises motion-compensating means, [and] <u>wherein</u> the motion-compensating means performs 1/4-precision pixel interpolation in both the horizontal direction and the vertical direction[,] in accordance with a motion vector contained in the input MPEG2-image compressed data.

--12. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the motion-compensating means <u>initially</u> performs 1/2-precision pixel interpolation in the horizontal direction by

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using a twofold interpolation digital filter and then performs the 1/4-precision pixel interpolation by means of linear interpolation.

--13.   (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the motion-compensating means _initially_ performs 1/2-precision pixel interpolation in a field, as vertical interpolation by using a twofold interpolation digital filter, and then performs the 1/4-precision pixel interpolation in the field by means of linear interpolation, when _a_ macro block of the input MPEG2-image compressed data is of _a_ field prediction mode.

--14.   (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the motion-compensating means _initially_ performs 1/2-precision pixel interpolation in a field, as vertical interpolation by using a twofold interpolation digital filter, and then performs the 1/4-precision pixel interpolation in the field by means of linear interpolation, when _a_ macro block of the input MPEG2-image compressed data is of _a_ frame prediction mode.

--15.   (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the motion-compensating means [uses, as the twofold interpolation digital filter,] _includes_ a half-band _digital_ filter _for performing the pixel interpolation in both the horizontal direction and the vertical direction_.

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--16. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the MPEG2-image data decoding means _further_ comprises storage means for storing pixel values, and the motion-compensating means calculates coefficients equivalent to a sequence interpolating [operations] _operation_ and applies the coefficients, thereby to perform motion compensation on the pixel values read from the storage means in accordance with the motion vector contained in the input MPEG2-image compressed data.

--17. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein, when pixel values outside an image frame are required to achieve twofold interpolation, the motion-compensating means performs _one of a_ mirror process [or] _and a_ hold process, thereby generating [as many] _a number of_ virtual pixel values [as the] _equal to a number of_ taps provided in a filter in order to accomplish _motion compensation_, before performing the motion compensation.

--18. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the motion-compensating means performs _one of_ the mirror process [or] _and_ the hold process in units of fields.

--19. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the scan-converting means preserves _one of_ a first field [or] _and_ a second field of the interlaced-scan image data output from the MPEG2-image data decoding means, discards the [other] _one_ of [these two] _the first and second_ fields _not preserved_, and

performs twofold up-sampling on preserved pixel values, thereby converting the interlaced-scan data to serial-scan data.

--21. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising motion-vector synthesizing means for generating a motion vector value corresponding to the image data subjected to scan conversion, from [the] a motion vector data contained in the input MPEG2-image compressed data.

--23. (Amended) An image data converting method of converting first compressed image data to second compressed image data being more compressed than the first compressed image data, said first compressed image data being interlaced-scan data [that has been] compressed by orthogonal transform and motion compensation, and said second compressed data being serial-scan data, said method comprising the steps of:

decoding the first compressed image data by using only lower mth-order orthogonal transform coefficients included in nth-order orthogonal transform coefficients (where m < n), in both a vertical direction and a horizontal direction in the first compressed image data;

converting interlaced-scan data output from the [image data] step of decoding [means] to serial-scan data; and

encoding the serial-scan data, thereby generating the second compressed image data.

--24. (Amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein

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the first compressed image data is MPEG2-image compressed data
containing eighth-order discrete cosine transform coefficients
in both the vertical direction and the horizontal direction, the
step of [the] decoding the first compressed image data [is to
decode] decodes the MPEG2-image compressed data in both the
vertical direction and the horizontal direction, by using only
lower fourth-order coefficients included in the eighth-order
discrete cosine transform coefficients, and the step of encoding
the serial-scan data [is to encode] encodes the serial-scan data,
thereby generating MPEG4-image compressed data.

--25.   (Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein
the code type of each frame in the interlaced-scan MPEG2-image
compressed data is determined, data about an intra-image encoded
image/forward prediction encoded image is output in accordance
with the code type determined, data about a bi-directional
prediction encoded image is discarded thereby to convert a frame
rate, and the MPEG4-image compressed data is generated from the
converted frame rate [converted.].

--27.   (Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein
in the [process] step of decoding the MPEG2-image compressed
data, variable-length decoding is performed on only the discrete
cosine transform coefficients required in a discrete cosine
transform, in accordance with whether [the] a macro block of the
input MPEG2-image compressed data is one of a field-discrete
cosine transform mode [or fame-discrete] and a frame-discrete

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cosine transform mode.

--28. (Amended) The method according to clam 24, wherein in the [process] step of decoding the MPEG2-image compressed data, an inverse discrete-cosine transform [means] of a field-discrete cosine transform mode is performed by extracting only the lower fourth-order coefficients included in [the] eighth-order discrete cosine transform coefficients, in both the vertical direction and the horizontal direction, and then by performing fourth-order inverse discrete cosine transform on the extracted lower fourth-order coefficients [extracted].

--30. (Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein in the [process] step of decoding the MPEG2-image compressed data, a compression inverse discrete-cosine transform [means] of a frame-discrete cosine transform mode is performed by extracting only the lower fourth-order coefficients included in [the] eighth-order discrete cosine transform coefficients and then fourth-order inverse discrete cosine transform is performed on the extracted lower fourth-order coefficients [extracted], in the horizontal direction, and field-discrete cosine transform is performed in the vertical direction.

--33. (Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein in [the] motion compensation performed in the [process] step of decoding the MPEG2-image compressed data, 1/4-precision pixel interpolation is carried out in both the horizontal direction and

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the vertical direction, in accordance with a motion vector contained in the input MPEG2-image compressed data.

--34. (Amended) The method according to claim 33, wherein in the [process] step of performing motion compensation, 1/2-precision pixel interpolation is initially performed in the horizontal direction by using a twofold interpolation digital filter and then 1/4-precision pixel interpolation is performed by means of linear interpolation.

--35. (Amended) The method according to claim 33, wherein in the [process] step of performing motion compensation, 1/2-precision pixel interpolation is initially performed in a field, as vertical interpolation, by using a twofold interpolation digital filter, and then 1/4-precision pixel interpolation is performed in the field by means of linear interpolation, when a macro block of the input MPEG2-image compressed data is of a field prediction mode.

--36. (Amended) The method according to claim 33, wherein in the [process] step of [compensating] performing motion compensation, 1/2-precision pixel interpolation is initially performed in a field, as vertical interpolation, by using a twofold interpolation digital filter, and then the 1/4-precision pixel interpolation is performed in the field by means of linear interpolation, when a macro block of the input MPEG2-image compressed data is of a frame prediction mode.

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--37.   (Amended) The method according to claim [33] 36, wherein in the [process] step of performing [compensating] motion compensation, a half-band filter is used as the twofold interpolation digital filter, to perform the interpolation.

--38.   (Amended) The method according to claim 33, wherein in the [process] step of decoding the MPEG2-image compressed data, pixel values are stored, and in the [process] step of performing motion compensation, coefficients already calculated and equivalent to a sequence interpolating operations are applied, thereby to perform motion compensation on the stored pixel values [stored], in accordance with the motion vector contained in the input MPEG2-image compressed data.

--39.   (Amended) The method according to claim 33, wherein, when pixel values outside an image frame are required to achieve twofold interpolation, one of mirror process [or] and a hold process is performed, thereby generating [as many] a number of virtual pixel values [as the] equal to a number of taps provided in a filter required in order to accomplish the motion compensation.

--40.   (Amended) The method according to claim 39, in the [process] step of performing the motion compensation, the mirror process or the hold process is carried out in units of fields.

--41.   (Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein

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in the [process] step of [performing the scan conversion] converting, a first field or a second field of the interlaced-scan image data is preserved, and the [other] one of [these two] the first and second fields that is not preserved is discarded, and twofold up-sampling is performed on preserved pixel values, thereby converting the interlaced-scan data to serial-scan data, said first and second fields being [ones] contained in the MPEG2-image compressed data that has been decoded.

--42. (Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein only a region composed of one or more macro blocks that surround an object in an intra-image encoded image/forward prediction encoded image is encoded in the [process] step of decoding the MPEG2-image compressed data.

--43. (Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein a motion vector value corresponding to the image data subjected to scan conversion is synthesized from [the] motion vector data contained in the input MPEG2-image compressed data.--